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DECODE BIHAR POLL DECIDE

MODI OBLIQUELY ENDORSES NITISH AS BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER CANDIDATE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the National Democratic Alliance under the leadership of Nitish Kumar will script a record win in Bihar polls

PM'S STATEMENT COMES AFTER TEJASHWI JIBE

Modi's statement indirectly endorsing Nitish as the NDA's CM face comes a day after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Opposition INDIA bloc's CM candidate, had claimed that the BJP would not let Nitish become CM again. Modi's stance is different from Union home minister Amit Shah's recent remark that the NDA would decide on CM after the elections | **P12**

20 YRS OF NDA RULE DID NO GOOD: RJD LEADER

- Modi said people can't expect the RJD-Congress to solve any of their problems. "They (RJD-Cong) are a problem by themselves," he said
- Meanwhile, Tejashwi alleged there is widespread unemployment and rampant corruption. "Despite 20 years of NDA rule in Bihar, the state's per capita income is the lowest and farmers remain poor," he claimed

NOV 14

WHEN BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

GST
Bachat
Utsav
Now my dream of owning a home is coming true, with added savings!
FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS, SEASON OF JOY
GST RELIEF FOR BENEFICIARIES OF
PM AWAS YOJANA (GRAMIN)
IN ADDITION TO ASSISTANCE OF UPTO ₹1.3 lakh
Cement
SAVINGS OF ₹30 PER CEMENT BAG
SAVINGS OF UP TO ₹600 ON SAND-LIME BRICKS WORTH ₹10,000
भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0041/2526

India-US trade deal to be inked very soon: Govt

Talks over, pact now in drafting stage: official

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

DESPITE geopolitical challenges, India and the US are close to concluding a bilateral trade deal, a commerce ministry official said on Friday, adding major differences have been ironed out and both sides are now on the same page. "We are very near as far as the deal is concerned," said the official while disclosing that both countries are now working on the language of the trade deal.

Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is in Germany for the Berlin Global Dialogue, had on Thursday said the talks were progressing well with both the sides working towards a deal. Speaking to Doordarshan in Berlin, Goyal said, "We are in dialogue with the US; our teams are engaged. We recently had the commerce secretary visit the US and meet his counterparts. We continue to engage with them and talks are progressing. We hope to work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future." However, he reiterated that India "does not do deals with deadlines or with a gun to its head".

India and the US have completed five rounds of talks so far. A team of Indian delegates from led by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal visited US last week.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump met in February, a target was set to negotiate a bilateral trade deal by November. However, relations soured after Trump announced a 50% tariff on Indian goods from August onwards as a penalty for buying Russian oil.

The US delegate's visit to India was also cancelled. However, both sides continued talks. The momentum was restored when Brendan Lynch, assistant US trade representative for South and Central Asia, met Indian officials in New Delhi.

The proposed pact aims to double the bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

TARIFF TRACKER

Reliance to fully comply with US sanctions

RIL, India's largest buyer of Russian oil and most impacted by the latest US sanctions, said it will comply with all applicable restrictions and will adjust its refinery operations to meet compliance requirements | **P15**

Maha doctor names cops in palm note, ends life

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A 28-year old woman doctor working at a government hospital in Phaltan in Satara district of Maharashtra died by suicide late on Thursday night and left a seven-line note on her palm, blaming two police inspectors for her harassment, torture and sexual exploitation.

In the note, the doctor accused police sub-inspector Gopal Badane of raping her five times while police inspector Prashant Bankar harassed and mentally tortured her for four months. The note that was spotted during autopsy has been sent for forensic analysis. The victim had briefed her seniors about the harassment but could not get justice; hence she allegedly hanged herself in a hotel room near the Phaltan hospital.

District police superintendent Tushar Doshi said a case has been registered against Badane and Bankar, and both placed under suspension. They are absconding.

The victim's relatives accused Badane and his associates of pressuring the doctor to alter medical reports on unnatural deaths and modify reports when arrested persons were brought to the hospital for a medical test.

GROWING METRO

Now, DCM sets the ball rolling for new master plan for city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said that he has given directions to the Urban Development Department (UDD) to prepare a new master plan for Bengaluru Urban district, as the area is growing leaps and bounds.

The DCM, after a meeting with stake holders at the Panchayat, City Municipal Council, and Outer areas of GBA, said that road- widening will be the top priority, as construction activity is gaining pace, widening of roads will be a difficult task later on. Shivakumar suggested to conduct a survey of the areas on the outskirts of Bengaluru Urban District, as it will be included in the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) jurisdiction in the future.

After the progress review meeting of the local bodies under Bengaluru Urban District, the DCM said, "A meeting of officials of 12 local bodies of Bangalore city district was held. Bangalore will grow in the future. The areas covered by Bangalore Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (BMRDA) will become part of Bangalore city in the coming days," he said. **P2**

20 killed as B'luru-bound bus catches fire after collision with bike in Kurnool

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kurnool

TWENTY people, including two children and a biker, were charred to death, and several others injuried when an AC sleeper bus travelling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru caught fire after colliding with a two-wheeler in Kurnool district in the early hours of Friday. The incident happened on the National Highway 44 near Chinnatekuru village.

The bus belonging to Vemuri Kaveri Travels caught fire around 3 am after hitting the two-wheeler, and dragged it for some distance, generating sparks which ignited its fuel tank, triggering the blaze.

In all, 46 people, including four children, and two drivers, were in the vehicle. As the flames spread rapidly, passengers were trapped inside the burning vehicle. Locals and police acted swiftly, rescuing several passengers despite the intense blaze, and heavy rain.

Rescue operations continued for hours, and with the joint efforts of fire service personnel, police, revenue, and medical teams, the fire was brought under control.

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha said of the 19 victims, six each hailed from Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Telangana, two each from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and one each from Odisha and Bihar. The identity of a person, who boarded the ill-fated bus at Aramghar in Hyderabad, is yet to be established. Some of the bodies were charred beyond recognition, prompting officials to deploy forensic teams to collect DNA samples of the deceased.

MORE: P7

A video grab of the bus engulfed in flames after colliding with a bike in Kurnool district on Friday | PTI

₹2 lakh compensation for families of deceased

PM Narendra Modi said he was extremely saddened by the incident, and announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each for the families of the victims, and ₹50,000 for the injured.

6 from state perish in deadly fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AT least six people with links to Karnataka died in the bus inferno that claimed 19 lives in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district in the early hours of Friday.

Officials said Philomen Baby (64) and Kishore Kumar (41), both residents of Karnataka, were killed in the blaze, while four members of a family living in Kammanahalli in Bengaluru were also killed in the fire.

They have been identified as Ramesh (35), his wife Anusha (30) and their children Manish (12) and Manvitha (10). Hailing from Nellore, Ramesh had been working in a private company in Bengaluru for nearly 15 years.

Though there were reports that four more people working in the IT sector in Bengaluru were also killed in the tragedy, no official confirmation was available.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

RSS rally: HC seeks peace meet before October 28

Kalaburagi: The Kalaburagi bench of Karnataka High Court, which commenced hearing on allowing RSS to hold its route march, directed the Kalaburagi district administration to conduct a peace meeting before October 28 | **P4**

Taliban to build dam to limit water to Pak

New Delhi: In a move that could have far-reaching consequences for Pakistan's strained water security and after India's move to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, the Taliban has said it will build a series of dams on the Kunar River | **P12**

Flood alert issued as KRS maintains full reservoir level, outflows increased

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

WITH the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir continuing to remain at its maximum level of 124.80 feet for over a week, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL) officials are releasing higher amounts of water downstream and issued a flood warning for low-lying areas of Mandya district.

The dam has been receiving sustained inflows because of heavy rainfall in the Cauvery catchment areas in Kodagu and surrounding regions over the past several days. The dam currently holds its maximum capacity of 49.452 tmcft of water.

Officials said that as of Friday, inflow into the dam was around 37,000 cusecs, prompting authorities to increase outflows from 25,000 cusecs to 40,000 cusecs since Thursday night.

Water being released from the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir on Friday, following heavy rain in the Cauvery catchment areas | EXPRESS

CNNL officials said that while there is no report of crop damage so far, precautionary measures have been taken. People residing in low-lying and vulnerable villages along the river have been advised to move to safer places. Authorities, including the district administration and police, have been alerted to be ready for any emergency. **P6**

EVERYONE'S MAN

Adman who spoke to India in its language

GURBIR SINGH @ Mumbai

PIYUSH Pandey was the odd man out at a RedInk Awards panel discussion soon after Prime Minister Modi was voted in for the first time in 2014. As an advertising creative executive, he didn't fit into a panel of popular news anchors Rajdeep Sardesai and Arnab Goswami, and Star chief Uday Shankar.

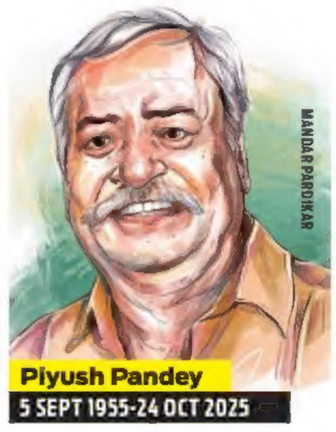
Not surprisingly, he drew fire for his catch line: *Aab ki Bar, Modi Sarkar* — a slogan that moved the anti-incumbency wave. He laughed it off. "We have to deliver the message of our clients. We have nothing to do with politics."

Pandey's creative campaigns for Ogilvy — the ad agency he started with in 1982 and ended his career and life with at 70 as Chief Creative Officer — grew it to an industry leader even as his creative skills dominated advertising in India for over three decades.

He carried his walrus mustache, his broad grin and infectious sense of humour everywhere; but it was his pioneering effort in changing Indian advertising from borrowed Western idioms to campaigns rooted in the language of our streets and villages that made him a legend.

Remember the *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara* in 1988? It was a jingle for national integration written by him. It took the country by storm as it worked up a pride for unity in diversity.

He also made some big brands daily, household names. Like his 1993 Cadbury's campaign, *Kuch Khaas Hai ham Sabhi Mein*, which used local imagery to convince adults there is no sin in enjoying chocolates.



The power of 'gifting' is another tack Pandey used successfully. He pushed Cadbury (now Mondalez) chocolates as a way to say thank you — *Kuch Meetha Ho Jai*; as he did with Titan timepieces — 'The Joy of Gifting'.

But who can ever forget Pandey's incredibly creative Hutch (now Vodafone) campaign with the pug ZooZoo from 2010? The pug was used when 'Hutch' was transitioning to 'Vodafone'; and in a quirky, simple manner the dog symbolised loyalty and connection. The pug campaign became so popular that for years the Chinese 'pug' breed became a favourite in India!

For his contribution to advertising, Piyush Pandey was awarded the Padma Shri in 2016. He made his mark in advertising using a simple, storytelling style. As a person, he was never the corporate bigwig. An unkempt, easygoing guy, he was everyone's man.